

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Protecting the environment will receive high priority in carrying out the department's primary function of delivering a reliable supply of safe, high quality drinking water.

Philosophy

Water is a critical element for all life forms. As stewards of valuable water and land resources, the Seattle Water Department will carefully and responsibly manage and conserve those resources, protecting and enhancing them to meet not only today's needs, but tomorrow's as well. Further, the department recognizes and acknowledges the benefit of both instream and out-of-stream uses of water, as well as the relationship of land use to water quality and instream habitat. Because of these values, the department will give environmental considerations high priority in all department actions. This means that conservation programs will receive considerable emphasis and new supply options with lower environmental impacts will be preferred.

Policy Implementation Guidelines

- (1) Plan and implement policy approaches and programs based on broad public input that maximize cost-effective savings from conservation.
- (2) Aim to avoid adverse environmental impacts in planning, designing, constructing, and operating facilities.
- (3) Comply with environmental laws and regulations as the starting point for environmental management, beyond which the department will aim to excel.
- (4) Develop and implement timely, effective and appropriate mitigation plans when adverse environmental impacts are unavoidable.
- (5) When developing mitigation plans, seek advice on and participation from broad interests in a way that may go beyond what is required by regulation.